Applicant: Paul DiCarlo et al. Attorney's Docket No.: 01194-824001 / 03-088

Serial No.: 10/728,248

Filed: December 4, 2003

Page : 2 of 12

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

In particular, during use, stylet 18 is configured to rotate about its longitudinal axis 58 when moved from its retracted position to its extended position. The rotational motion of stylet 18 can enhance its cutting action, thereby enhancing the performance of instrument 10. Referring to Figs. 2, 3A and 3B, at its proximal end 24, stylet 18 is attached to a stylet block 22. Stylet block 22 includes a first, outer part 26 and a second, inner part 28 (as shown, a generally tubular structure). Inner part 28 is connected to stylet 18 and can rotate within outer part 26, about the longitudinal axis 58 of the stylet. More specifically, inner part 28 includes a projection or an arm 36 extending radially outward from the inner part and engaging with a track 38. As shown in Figs. 3A and 3B, track 38 is an elongated channel defined in a curved, semi-cylindrical member 30 connected to housing 12. Track 38 extends helically in a direction (A) parallel to axis 58 so that as stylet block 22 is propelled distally along direction A during use, projection 36 travels along the track and rotates inner part 28 and stylet 18 (arrow B). Track 38 can be extend such that projection 36 travels from greater than zero degree to about 175 degrees relative to a starting position. The degree of travel of projection 36 can be greater than or equal to about 0°, 30°, 60°, 90°, 120°, or 150°; and/or less than or equal to about 175°, 150°, 120°, 90°, 60°, or 30°, relative to the starting position.

Please replace the title beginning at page 1, line 1 with the following amended title:

MEDICAL INSTRUMENT WITH A ROTATABLE STYLET